

Wellness Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2025

Present: Marianne Thole, Terri Smith, Lauren Moore, Elizabeth Werner, Alec Brandt, Robin Moore, Christine Mehlhorn, Rita Thorson, Kelly Gutierrez

Absent: Jessica Skilling, Laura Pidgeon, Susan Schultz, Medora Benson, Joann Karetov, Claire North, Willa Lovett, Anna Tiffany, Nicole Dockham

Reminder:

Next meeting will be June 2nd at 8:30 am in the Collaboration Room. Look for a calendar invite soon.

New items:

School Garden Conference: March 17th, 2025

Elizabeth attended this conference put on by the MN Dept. of Ag and Ag in the Classroom. Elizabeth enjoyed the conference and learning what other schools are doing for garden spaces. Learned that the Jeffers Foundation funds school gardens – (need to look in to that). Elizabeth will share the items from the conference.

Snowshoe Update:

Robin spoke of the snowshoe roll out with the middle school students. They enjoyed it! Suggestion made to ask for parent volunteers next year for help with putting shoes on and rounding the students up to come in at the end of class. Claire Fiedler took some great pictures! The pictures were featured in a Parent Weekly and will be featured in the Washington County publication, Living Healthy.

Clothes Bins:

Rita updated the group on clothes bins for re-use. Fillthebins.com will be bringing bins in the Spring or Summer. Prep is top on the list for a bin. Once these are onsite, promotions can be sent out in the Parent Weekly. The school will get a reimbursement per pound of items recovered.

MN Farm to School Institute – Prep has been chosen to participate in this 3-day conference in June at the Farm at the Arb in Chanhassen, MN. This is an



opportunity to grow our farm to school program by engaging the cafeteria, community and classroom. We are looking for representation from each division to help share the knowledge with their colleagues. Marianne and Laura have agreed to attend, but we need others! An email was sent to all employees to see if there is interest in attending.

The Minnesota Farm to School Institute will provide you with a unique opportunity to deepen your knowledge, expand your skills, and network with like-minded individuals who share your commitment to advancing farm to school initiatives. Through a series of year-long workshops, hands-on activities, and collaborative projects, you will gain practical insights and resources to implement effective farm to school programs in your community.

Grant updates:

New round of **SHIP grant funding** is open for \$5000. Items of interest are: trail head signage- (waiting for a quote from Bill), bird/plant identification signage, water bottle filler in gym and AUX gym, items for wellness room (occupied lock for door, towels, sound machine, soft lighting, disposable towels?) standing desk mats, under desk bike peddle exerciser, additional standing desks, staff mental health ideas? Suggestions are encouraged ASAP.

Full Tray Grant was received by foodservice for another round of Farm to School funding. Prep will receive \$15,000 to spend on local foods for the 25/26 SY!

AGRI Garden Grant was submitted and will be notified in April if Prep has received this grant. Prep asked for \$50,000 to grade, fence and irrigate the garden section behind the AUX gym.

Orchard Tree Grant <https://www.ftpf.org/apply>

This is an ongoing grant that we will look into when the garden team works on the AGRI grant. The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) is an award-winning international nonprofit charity dedicated to planting fruitful trees and plants to alleviate world hunger, combat global warming, strengthen communities, and improve the surrounding air, soil, and water.

No Child Left Inside Grant from MN DNR was received for Frisbee Golf! This is a \$5,000 grant that will help purchase goals for a 9-hole course and some Frisbees. Rita, Bill and Marianne are working on designs and install is planned for summer of 2025. May need to ask a Scout Troop for signage as a project or ask at the Golf Tournament for specific donations for the Frisbee Golf Course.

Metroblooms.org is an organization works with people to plant pollinator gardens

Mental Health:



No updates

Items to discuss for next meeting:

Grant updates

Think about goals or action items for 25/26 school year